

Appln. No. 09/696,095  
Amendment dated June 3, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-39 and add new claims 40-47 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-39 (Cancelled).

Claim 40 (New). A printing information distributing apparatus comprising:

printing information storage means for storing a plurality of printing information;

5 printing reservation means, connected to a first network connectable to a plurality of portable terminals carried by a plurality of users, for transmitting a printing reservation screen image to reserve printing information to a portable terminal, and generating reservation information showing printing  
10 information reserved by the portable terminal and corresponding to identification information transmitted from the portable terminal;

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reservation information storage means for storing  
reservation information generated by the printing reservation  
15 means;

receiving means, connected to a second network connectable  
to a plurality of output devices located at different places, for  
receiving identification information input by an output device  
and transmitted from the output device;

20 reading means, for retrieving the reservation information  
storage means based on the identification information received by  
the receiving means, and reading the reservation information  
corresponding to the identification information from the  
reservation information storage means; and

25 transmitting means, connected to the second network, for  
reading from the printing information storage means the printing  
information corresponding to the reservation information read  
from the reading means, and printing out the printing information  
by transmitting the printing information to the output device.

Claim 41 (New). The printing information distributing  
apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the identification  
information transmitted from the portable terminal comprises a  
terminal identification for specifying the portable terminal.

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Claim 42 (New). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising:

prepaid amount storage means for storing a prepaid amount corresponding to the identification information transmitted from  
5 the portable terminal;

accounting means for subtracting an amount corresponding to a printing charge of the printing information from the prepaid amount stored in the prepaid amount storage means, when the transmitting means transmits the printing information to the  
10 output device; and

control means for transmitting the printing information to the transmitting means when the prepaid amount stored in the prepaid amount storage means covers the printing charge of the printing information, and controlling the transmitting means so  
15 that the printing information is not transmitted to the transmitting means when the prepaid amount does not cover the printing charge of the printing information.

Claim 43 (New). The printing information distributing apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising:

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attribute information storage means for storing attribute  
information corresponding to the identification information; and

5 reservation limitation information storage means for storing  
reservation limitation information that limits reservations for  
printing based on user attribute information by each of the  
printing information; and

10 wherein the printing reservation means refers to the  
limitation information storage means before generating  
reservation information, and does not generate reservation  
information when the attribute information corresponding to  
identification information falls under reservation limitation  
information corresponding to printing information.

Claim 44 (New). The printing information distributing  
apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising printing  
limitation information storage means for storing printing  
information that limits printing information corresponding to the  
5 output device,

wherein the transmitting means limits transmission of  
printing information to the output device based on the printing  
limitation information stored in the printing limitation

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information storage means when transmitting printing information  
10 to the output device.

Claim 45 (New). The printing information distributing  
apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the transmitting means  
transmits charge information showing a printing charge of  
printing information corresponding to the reservation information  
5 read by the reading means to the output device, and prints out  
the printing information by transmitting the printing information  
to the output device when information showing the amount  
corresponding to the charge information from the output device  
has been fair-adjusted is transmitted.

Claim 46 (New). The printing information distributing  
apparatus according to claim 40, further comprising:

password generation means generating a password for each of  
the printing information when printing information is reserved by  
5 the portable terminal; and

identification information storage means for storing a  
password generated by the password generating means and  
corresponding to the printing information reserved by the  
information terminal;

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10            wherein the printing reservation means transmits the  
password generated by the password generating means to the  
portable terminal; and

             the transmitting means transmits the printing information  
corresponding to the password to the output device and prints out  
15    the printing information when the password transmitted from the  
output device and the password stored in the password storage  
means match.

             Claim 47 (New). A recording medium having a computer  
readable program code, said recording medium comprising:

             a computer readable program code for storing a plurality of  
printing information in printing information storage means;

5            a computer readable program code for transmitting a printing  
reservation screen image to reserve printing information to a  
portable terminal through a first network connectable to a  
plurality of portable terminals and generating reservation  
information showing printing information reserved by the portable  
10    terminal and corresponding to identification information  
transmitted from the portable terminal;

             a computer readable program code for storing reservation  
information generated by the printing reservation means in  
reservation information storage means;

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15           a computer readable program code for receiving  
identification information input by an output device and  
transmitted from the output device through a second network  
connectable to a plurality of output devices located at different  
places;

20           a computer readable program code for retrieving the  
reservation information storage means based on the received  
identification information; and

            a computer readable program code for reading from the  
printing information storage means the printing information  
25   corresponding to the read reservation information, and printing  
out the printing information by transmitting the printing  
information to the output device through the second network.